

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01
ACDA-07 EB-07 /105 W
-----172320Z 122986 /14

P R 170915Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4579
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
USMISSION USUN NY
CINCPAC HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOL 5074

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PDIP PE KN
SUBJ: NORTH KOREAN TRADE MISSION IN LIMA

REF: SEOUL 4974 (150915Z JUN 77)

SUMMARY: ROK MOFA UNDERSTANDS GOP IS RESTRICTING PRIVILEGES
OF NORTH KOREAN TRADE MISSION OFFICIALS IN LIMA; WOULD
APPRECIATE ANY DETAILS AVAILABLE. ROK PRESS MISREPRESENTS
GOP ACTIONS TO EXAGGERATE DETERIORATION DPRK DIPLOMATIC FORTUNES.

1. KIM CHAE-YONG, CHIEF OF MOFA INFORMATION DIVISION II,
TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 17 THAT KOREANS UNDERSTAND GOP IS
ATTEMPTING TO RESTRICT PRIVILEGES OF NORTH KOREAN TRADE
MISSION STAFF IN LIMA. ACCORDING TO KIN, GOP FONOFF
OFFICIALS TOLD KOREAN AMBASSADOR KIM IN-KWON AT A MAY 27
LIMA PARTY THAT GOP IS PRIVATELY DEMANDING NORTH KOREANS
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RETURN DIPLOATIC IDENTIFICATION CARDS OF THREE OUT OF
FOUR STAFFERS, AND DIPLOMATIC LICENSE PLATE OF ONE OF
THEIR THREE CARS. REASON PERUVIANS STATED IS THEY
RECENTLY DECIDED NORTH KOREANS ARE NOT ENTITLED TO DIPLOMATIC
STATUS UNDER THE GOP-DPRK AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE TRADE
MISSION, AND ARE NOW TAKING STEPS TO RECTIFY PREVIOUS
ERROR. KIM SAID ROKG BELIEVES GOP IS ACTUALLY DISPLEASED

WITH NORTH KOREAN POLITICAL AND PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES,
SMUGGLING, AND FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT LAST YEAR'S AGREEMENT
TO BUY ABOUT \$100 MILLION WORTH OF MINERALS FROM PERU.

2. QUOTING UNNAMED ROK MOFA SOURCES, SEOUL PRESS JUNE 17
REPORTED VARIOUSLY GOP HAD EITHER EXPELLED NORTH KOREANS,
OR LIFTED DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES OF ALL. PRESS EXPLAINED
ACTIONS ALONG LINES OF KIM'S SPECULATION PARA 1. IN
JUNE 15 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF (REPORTED REFTEL, MOFA
CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA DIVISION CHIEF HWANG YONG-CHAE
SAID MOFA ANTICIPATES GOP WILL REPEAT WILL RESTRICT NORTH
KOREANS' PRIVILEGES FOLLOWING ARGENTINA'S JUNE 14 BREAK
IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH DPRK, NEGLECTING TO MENTION
INFORMATION PERUVIANS HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO TAKE THOSE
MEASURES BY MAY 27. (COMMENT: KIM CHAE-YONG IS ONE OF
EMBASSY'S CLOSEST CONTACTS, AND SUPPLIED INFORMATION
PARA 1 READING FROM MOFA TELEGRAMS. APPEARS HWANG
JUGGLED DETAILS OF TIMING ARGENTINA AND PERU EVENTS IN
ATTEMPTS AT SLIGHTLY EXAGGERATING APPEARANCE OF GATHERING
MOMENTUM IN DETERIORATION NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMACY. IF SO,
WE WOULD EXPECT MOFA ALSO HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH GROSSER
INACCURACIES APPEARING IN KOREAN PRESS. END COMMENT.)

3. ACTION: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT ADDRESSEES CAN
SHED ON THIS SLIGHTLY CONFUSING SITUATION.
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